

November 7, 2017

Secretary Elaine L. Chao  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for Port Everglades' Intermodal Freight Connector Project for the "Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA)" Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The City of Fort Lauderdale is pleased to submit this letter of support for Port Everglades' **Intermodal Freight Connector Project (IFCP) for the "Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA)" Grant Application**. The Intermodal Freight Connector Project will ensure that Port Everglades is able to provide state-of-industry infrastructure and capacity necessary to fulfill its role as a nationally significant global gateway.

South Florida is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest metropolitan area in the U.S. with more than six million residents. In addition, Florida is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest state with over 21 million, and we welcome nearly 113 million tourists annually. Port Everglades is a critical economic driver for the City of Fort Lauderdale and South Florida providing jobs, goods, and bringing tourists through our City. This grant will leverage existing funding secured from the State, County, and the Port in order to complete a successful project identified by the Port Everglades Master Plan and to ensure that Port Everglades remains competitive in the global market with the increases in deeper drafts and the expanded Panama Canal.

Port Everglades' Master/Vision Plan identifies \$1.6 billion in capital investments that are needed to support this major economic generator for South Florida ranking 1<sup>st</sup> in Florida and 11<sup>th</sup> in the United States in international containerized cargo activity. The Port provides nearly 13,000 direct jobs, and \$29.3 billion in business activity for the region. To meet Port Everglades' current and future needs, an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars will be expended on construction and acquisition activities over the next several years. The IFCP represents critical components of this capital investment program necessary to serve our residents, visitors, and business community.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with Port Everglades with the successful completion of this project.

Sincerely,

John P. "Jack" Seiler, Mayor

Cc: Steven M. Cernak, Port Everglades Chief Executive and Port Director